

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 164576

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, ES, US

SUBJECT: SALLY SHELTON: APPOINTMENT TO ARA

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM JULY 14 NOON BRIEFING
TRANSCRIPT REGARDING PROSPECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF SALLY
SHELTON AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN ARA. (FYI:
AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO WAS ASSURED BY PHONE THAT
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE A DECISION NOT TO SEND
AN AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR.)

BEGIN QUOTE:

I WAS ASKED YESTERDAY A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO
OUR REPRESENTATION IN EL SALVADOR AND OTHER QUESTIONS
RELATING TO SALLY SHELTON. FIRST, WE DO INTEND TO
SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR SINCE WE CONSIDER IT
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IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SENIOR OFFICIAL THERE TO PRESENT
OUR VIEWS TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. SEVERAL
NAMES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT NO SELECTION HAS BEEN
MADE YET, HOWEVER. INsofar AS MISS SHELTON IS CONCERNED,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN HAS OFFERED SALLY SHELTON THE
POSITION OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND SHE HAS ACCEPTED. AS YOU MAY

KNOW, MISS SHELTON HAS BEEN SERVING ON SENATOR BENTSEN'S STAFF. IN HIS OFFICE, SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES AND HAS CONSIDERABLE OTHER EXPERIENCE WITH THE REGION. SHE HAS TAUGHT LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL. THIS EXPERIENCE, PLUS HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, ARE THE REASONS FOR CONSIDERING HER FOR A POSITION IN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

IN THAT BUREAU SHE WILL BE THE DEPUTY PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. IT WILL BE A NEW POSITION CREATED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE GREATER ATTENTION THIS ADMINISTRATION IS GIVING TO THE CARIBBEAN AND TO THE INCREASING ACTIVITY WITH MEXICO AS A RESULT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH MEXICO TO DEAL WITH A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS WE HAVE WITH THAT COUNTRY.

I HAVE A CV ON HER FOR THOSE WHO MAY WANT TO LOOK AT IT AFTERWARDS.

Q. MAY I ASK ONE PROCEDURAL QUESTION? IS IT FOR MR. TODMAN HIMSELF TO DECIDE WHO THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ARE?

A. THE PROCEDURE, INsofar AS I'M AWARE, HAS BEEN THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION. THE SECRETARY NORMALLY WISHES TO KNOW THE NAMES, AND I DON'T KNOW OF ANYBODY HAVING BEEN TURNED DOWN. BUT IF YOU WANT, I'LL CHECK THAT ONE THROUGH.

Q. WHY IS SALLY NOT GOING TO EL SALVADOR?

A. WELL, IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT WAS IN FACT TRUE THAT SHE WAS CONSIDERED, AMONG OTHER POSITIONS, FOR THAT. INsofar AS THIS IS CONCERNED, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT SHE WAS LONG INTERESTED IN A POSITION SUCH AS THE ONE SHE HAS BEEN OFFERED. I'M REALLY NOT GOING TO GO -- SINCE WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A DESIGNEE FOR THE SLOT IN EL SALVADOR -- INTO THAT SELECTION, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO HER ABOUT THIS FURTHER.

END QUOTE. VANCE

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